



The 12th Edition

Volume 6, Issue 2

Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

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News Briefs

HQ 12 AF OPY

Headquarters Twelfth Air Force's Outstanding Performer of the Year awards dinner is 6 p.m. Feb. 17 in the officers' club.

Attire is mess dress or semi-formal for military and comparable dress for civilians.

Dinner cost is \$20 for a choice of London Broil or Chicken Marsala.

For tickets, please contact a unit representative or CMSgt Boeder at 8-4937.

Monthly ceremony

Twelfth Air Force's monthly awards and promotion ceremony is 2 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Battlestaff Conference Room, Bldg. 12.

Honorees need to be in place by 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 12 AF/PA at 8-6053.

Commander's Call

Twelfth Air Force Commander's Call is 2 p.m. March 12 at the base theater. For more information, call 8-0540.

New nametag

Effective Jan. 1, the new metallic nametag for service dress uniforms must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

On the pullover sweaters, the nametag is worn on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

One team, one fight, one computer system

By TSgt Karin Wickwire-Krause
12th Air Force Public Affairs

"Training how you fight" is exactly what Twelfth Air Force exercised during BLUE FLAG 04-2, a command and control (C2) exercise to hone the skills of Air Operations Center's command and control warriors. In keeping with the fast-paced evolution of the Air Force, 12 AF innovators used this exercise as a training ground for a single computer system for coalition access.

For the first time, a 12 AF-led C2 exercise gave coalition partners access to the same computer system as their U.S. allies, said Col. Wayne Scott, 612th Air Communications Squadron commander and BLUE FLAG director of communications and information.

"In any real-world, U.S.-led Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) we maintain separate networks, one for U.S.-only personnel and one for our coalition partners to work on," explained Col. Christopher Haave, 612th Air Operations Group commander and BLUE FLAG CAOC director.

Having two computer systems adds com-

plications when fighting in a combat situation.

First, the communications personnel have to work twice as hard because they have to maintain two systems, with separate logins, as well as backing up the systems, Haave said. And, second, because the information is virtually the same on both systems, we are just duplicating each others efforts.

For example, British and American CAOC members wouldn't use the same computer system. In fact, the British person wouldn't even be allowed to look at U.S.-only screens unless they were invited, Haave explained. Above and beyond avoiding the communication issues of two systems, the single exercise computer system enhanced working relationships between coalition partners and better trained operators for future combined and joint operations.

There were really two key benefits to this streamlined system, according to Scott.

"It gave us the opportunity for full cooperation with coalition partners so we can better understand how each partner approaches and executes an air campaign,"

Scott said. "And it allowed us to develop the tactics, techniques and procedures for information sharing that are required to operate in a coalition environment."

However, there was much work to be done to ensure information security guidelines were met to allow coalition partners to use the same computer system during this C2 exercise.

"Just to get the authority to push forward with this exercise, we had to first ensure that the system was a closed network, not connected to any other U.S. network," Scott said.

Basically, it was a closed wide-area network that was only accessible by exercise participants, controllers and observers who were on the system which was connected to one of the three exercise locations – Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Fort McPherson, Ga., and Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Information security efforts focused on foreign disclosure procedures.

"We worked diligently with the foreign disclosure policy community to review all

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Manta deployees help support community needs

By 1st Lt Matthew Mountcastle
478 EOS Public Affairs

January in Manta, Ecuador is bustling with new commerce from the arrival of cruise ships and fishing vessels at the port.

Manta is a small port town and fishing community that is home to the Forward Operating Location (FOL) Manta at Eloy Alfaro Air Base, Ecuador. FOL Manta hosts a joint interagency effort in cooperation with the Ecuadorian government and the United States Navy, Air Force and Department of Homeland Security to help conduct counter drug operations.

The 478th Expeditionary Operations Squadron, led by Lt. Col. Dan Fernandez, is the U.S. Air Force unit

that manages the support operations at FOL Manta. The unit is charged with ensuring every aspect of the aircrew mission is supported on the ground so counter-drug missions are successfully launched by various governmental agencies. From force protection and food service to fuel in the aircraft, the men and women of the 478 EOS and the DynCorp contractors are here to serve.

One special aspect about FOL Manta is the effort to deliver

support to the children in need in the surrounding community. The American operation has been in Manta since 1999 and the desire to help the community has been here from the start.

"Like any other U.S. Air Force installation in the world, we have adopted the community around us," Fernandez said. "It is important to have strong community relations here so our troops

feel welcome in the community and the people in the community are looking out for us. Having thirty friends in this community is like having eighty more cops inside the gates of the installation and truly enhances our force protection."

The men and women who deploy to FOL Manta are more than willing to help firm up that relationship by

helping more than 26 different schools, orphanages and day cares in the past two years, according to Fernandez.

The aircraft and aircrews that deploy to FOL Manta to conduct their missions from here also help carry out this other mission. Arriving aircrews often stow away a little something extra in their

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limited personal baggage to distribute to the children of Manta during their stay.

From toys and school materials to shoes and clothes, these gifts are donated from the communities of the visiting flight crews and delivered through a network the 478 EOS has set up to reach the neediest children.

The recent deployment of the 317th Airlift Group from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, to FOL Manta has kept the tradition going. Lt. Col. Brian Smith, 317 AG detachment commander, pushed for a donation drive after Fernandez mentioned the program to him prior to the deployment.

Through the help of the local Wal-Mart in Abilene, Texas, and families of the 317 AG, Smith obtained items needed to help poor children in the local community. The 317 AG's arrival brought shoes, clothes, toys, and much needed school materials which were quickly loaded up in a vehicle by Smith and Capt. Chris Remy, a 317 AG member.

With the assistance of their guide, Erica Cevallos, a DynCorp employee who runs the 478 EOS protocol office, the crew members travelled through the streets of Manta until they arrived at the Santa Margarita Day Care.



1st Lt. Matthew Mountcastle

Maricella Cevallos, the Santa Margarita Day Care director helps children choose school supplies and clothing from the donations brought by the 317th Airlift Group, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.

In a flash the items are all gone. The children and staff thank Smith and Remy and after a few pictures, it is time to leave. The children go back to their classrooms and the two aircrew members return to the mission at the Manta FOL.

Through the support of their local community in Abilene, Texas, members of the 317 AG have helped a few children in Manta, Ecuador.

And through the presence of Americans in Ecuador, it is only a matter of time before another American community sends its brave airmen to do their mission and bring goodwill to the Manta community.

With bare concrete floors and brick walls, this is the daytime home for more than a hundred children.

In small groups, the children are brought in to receive what they need from the donated shoes, clothes, toys, and notebooks. Santa Margarita Director Maricella Cevallos, carefully presides over the process and hands out the donations.

The items are not always a perfect fit. One boy mentions that his new sandals are too big on him.

"It is okay," the director tells him, "you will grow into them."



The 12th Edition

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SALUTE!

Congratulations to 12thAF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments.

Promotees

Airman First Class

Josh Fowler

Senior Airman

Christina Dietrich



Senior Airman Below the Zone

Josh Tate

Staff Sgt

Donald Jones

Robert Russell



Master Sgt

John Bondi

Daniel Williams

Lieutenant Colonel

James Edmonds

David Wallace

Medal Recipients

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Patrick Harrison

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the information that was placed on the network. In the CAOC environment, you may have people who were previously in a CAOC and have a CD or disk with a program or spreadsheet they would have liked to use during this exercise," Scott said. "The problem is that these programs were used on U.S.-only systems, so they had to be reviewed for releasability before being cleared for viewing by our coalition partners."

And the foreign disclosure policy went both ways. Conversely, coalition partners had to have information they wanted on the net reviewed to ensure there was no risk in other parties seeing their information, Scott added.

To streamline the foreign disclosure process for this exercise, participants who brought programs, files, spreadsheets, etc., had to justify why it was needed to their cell

chief. Once the cell chief agreed, the information had to be reviewed by an appropriate clearing authority – the Foreign Disclosure Officer for U.S. information or someone in the coalition chain – before it was placed on the network, explained Scott.

Our goal in the coalition environment was not just to protect U.S. data, but also to help our partners protect their information as well, he added.

"Since this was the first time everyone used the same systems, personnel from every nation had to ensure information was releasable before it was put onto the system," Haave said.

"Through this exercise, we demonstrated the capability to operate in a true combined environment, not only for today, but possibly for future combined operations as well."

Top of the 12th

SSgt. Brandi Dahl is the NCOIC, Console Ops, USSOUTHAF Operations Cell.

"SSgt. Dahl just got here in November and has already made a tremendous impact to the USSOUTHAF Operations Cell, the 612th Support Squadron, and the community," said Maj. Stephen Swanton, Chief, USSOUTHAF Operations Cell. "She embodies leadership and motivation, not by saying but by doing – just what you expect in today's NCO."



SSgt. Dahl

Years of service: 13

Hometown: Grand Island, Neb.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities: Responsible for the supervision and overall performance of USSOUTHAF operations cell controllers.

Favorite aspects of D-M: The weather, the desert scenery, and the ever-continuous construction to upgrade and make military life more enjoyable during duty hours and after.

If you could change one thing to improve D-M, what would it be? Give an updated activity center to the young airmen; one that contains activities congruent to their generation.

What motivates your winning attitude? The people; especially a boss who recognizes your team's efforts and believes in their abilities to succeed.

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